

Estimates of Immigrant Populations in Minnesota

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Barbara J. Ronningen

Estimating the number of international newcomers to Minnesota is a difficult task. The problem with estimating this population is that it is highly mobile and statistically elusive. These subpopulations that stand out physically from the majority of Minnesotans tend to be overestimated by the public. Unfortunately, that overestimation is often translated into higher estimates by public agencies and the press. Estimates are made by many different groups, some with an agenda to support, others based on more objective information.

Sources for estimating international immigrant populations in Minnesota include the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Refugee Services at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Internal Revenue Service and the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The INS Statistical Yearbook publishes the number of immigrants who indicate that their final destination is Minnesota. This data is broken out by country of origin and type of immigrant, e.g., employment preference, family preference, refugees, etc. Problems with the INS data arise from the mobility of the population combined with insufficient understanding of English in many cases. Consequently, an immigrant who understands English poorly or who has not yet decided on the final place of residence may simply indicate the port of entry as the final destination. Immigrants to Minnesota are undoubtedly undercounted for that reason. The high mobility of international immigrant populations means that the INS count of persons arriving from a specified country in a given year may soon be inaccurate since many immigrants move to other states or make multiple moves during their first few years in the United States.

DHS' Refugee Services estimates refugee populations each year in January. These estimates are based on numbers of clients for their services as well as input from local service providers.

The IRS provides information on movement of persons between states and from foreign countries to the United States. This data is based on tax returns and includes only those persons who file income tax returns. Immigrants with low incomes are not required to file tax returns and consequently are omitted from this data.

DCFL collects from school districts information on the language spoken at home as well as on race and ethnicity of children in grades K-12. Recently, DCFL has added information for pre-school children. School district data for children who speak languages other than English in the home are fairly accurate.

To translate these counts into an estimate of the total population of people from countries where that language is spoken is often done using multipliers. Will Craig ("New Languages in Minnesota" in *CURA Reporter*, April 1997, pages 6-10), calculated multipliers for languages using 1990 Census data. Craig determined how many Minnesota residents spoke a particular language and how many were school children. Dividing the former by the latter yielded a multiplier that could be used for post-1990 language data. For example, in 1990, there were 2.54 Hmong Minnesotans for each school-aged child speaking Hmong.

However, the 1990 Census has no data for some language groups including the Somalis. For Spanish, the total number of children speaking the language is known from DCFL, but these children may come from any one of many different countries where Spanish is spoken, including countries in Latin America, Spain or other states in the U.S.

Some coding errors occur in the home language data file, and the most obvious errors are easily corrected. Less obvious errors may remain undetected. Coding foreign languages is an ongoing process. DCFL is continuing to update and amend these files to make them a better reflection of children in schools.

Other sources for estimates of international immigrant populations include service providers, such as the International Institute, Lutheran Social Services, Catholic Charities and Jewish service organizations. These agencies do not estimate total numbers, but they often have a good sense of trends in particular populations. Increased client numbers reflect mobility as well as immigration. Both are important trends in estimating total numbers of immigrants.

Estimates of Immigrant Populations

AFRICAN

Source	Somali	Sudanese	Ethiopian	Liberian
1990 Census Count*	No data	No data	1,001	452
International Institute	4,000	2,000		2,000
Mpls. Public School**	743	22	136	63
St. Paul Public Schools**	79			
1998 DHS Estimates	9,000	500	1,200	250
1999 DHS Estimates	15,000	1,000	1,300	400

* In 1990, 10,926 reported sub-Saharan African ancestry, but these numbers are not further specified as to country of origin. In addition, many of these are probably African Americans.

**children who have been in the U.S. 3 years or less

Asian

Source	Hmong	Vietnamese	Tibetans
1990 Census data	16,833	9,387	No data
International Institute			500
Fresno Center for New Americans	8,000 (recent from CA)		
Minneapolis Public Schools*	508	84	180-200
St. Paul Public Schools*	615	20	
1998 DHS Estimates	40,000	20,000	
1999 DHS Estimates	60,000	22,000	

*children who have been in the U.S. 3 years or less

East European

Source	Russian	Bosnian
1990 Census data	31,945*	7,765**
International Institute expects in near future	50	
Mpls. Public Schools***	13	36
1998 DHS Estimates****	5,500	1,000
1999 DHS Estimates	6,000	1,600

*data reflects all Minnesotans who have Russian ancestry.

**all Minnesotans with Yugoslavian ancestry.

***children who have been in the U.S. 3 years or less

****all former Soviet refugees

Recent Data on International Immigrants

Country of Origin	Source and Year of Data	Count	State Demographic Center Estimate of Population
Somalia	Home language 99 - DCFL	1,908	6,000 + or -1,500
	Home language 98 - DCFL	1,462	
Hmong	Home language 99 - DCFL	18,818	60,000 + or - 3,000
	Home language 98 - DCFL	17,259	
All Asian children	Gender ethnicity 98 - DCFL	37,470	

Hispanic countries (majority Mexican)	Home language 99 - DCFL	12,505	125,000 + or - 15,000
	Home language 98 - DCFL	11,395	
	Hispanic children 98 - DCFL	20,690	
Russian	Home language 99 - DCFL	1,311	6,000 + or - 1,000
	Home language 98 - DCFL	1,222	

Background for These Estimates

Populations of special interest in 1999 are Somalis, other East Africans, West Africans, Hmong, other southeast Asians, Hispanics, Russians, Yugoslavians, and Tibetans. Most of these populations are concentrated in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Olmsted County (Rochester). Hispanics are widely distributed in Minnesota with many working at food processing plants throughout the state.

Africans

Immigration from Africa has been almost exclusively a 1990s phenomenon. Somalis are the largest ethnic group coming to Minnesota from Africa. According to the INS, 10,464 Somalis entered the U.S. between 1986 and 1996. Between 1990 and 1996, the INS reports a total of about 1,200 immigrants from Somalia to Minnesota. In 1996, 439 Somalis came directly to Minnesota according to the INS. However, many more came here from other states. In the 1997-1998 school year, there were 1,462 children from homes where Somali was spoken; in the following year, the number had risen to 1,906. The problem, then, is to extrapolate from these numbers to the total population. Usually, this extrapolation is done using a multiplier based on household size and other known characteristics of the immigrant population (cf. Craig 1997). But for Somalis in Minnesota that information is lacking. DHS' Refugee Services estimated 15,000 Somalis in January 1999. While the Somali population is growing rapidly, this estimate seems too high (it is roughly equivalent to all Somalis who have come to the U.S. since 1986). The total population is probably more in the 6,000 range, and increasing by about 1,000 per year. Given the large increase in Somali children in Minnesota, it seems possible that fully half of all Somalis living in the U.S. may be in Minnesota.

Information from two school districts may help to develop a multiplier for Somali school children in Minnesota. Family size for Somali children enrolled in the Owatonna School District averages 4.45 (50 families), with 1.48 Somalis for each Somali child in school. If we use this multiplier for Somalis in Minnesota the total population would be approximately 2,830. In the Cedar-Riverside Charter School,

family size is 3.8, with 2.65 Somalis for each Somali child in school. This multiplier gives an approximation for all Somalis of 5,060. However, some children from the families in the Cedar-Riverside school may attend other schools, so this multiplier could be low. Combining the data from the two schools gives a multiplier of 1.64 or a total population of 3,140. This number represents an estimate of the population of Somalis living in families with school children in Minnesota.

The number of Somalis is probably higher than 3,140 since those Somalis who do not have children in the schools, whether they are young families or single adults with no other family members, are not included. Early immigrants from Somalia were often single men, but recent immigration may include more families or the families of these early immigrants. Changes in family preference rules by the INS means that Minnesota can expect to see more immigrants coming from Somalia as current residents take advantage of this opportunity to bring other family members to the U.S. and Minnesota.

Other East Africans

Family preference has also been extended to Eritreans and Ethiopians, and those numbers, too, will continue to grow. In the 1990 Census, 1,001 Minnesotans reported Ethiopian ancestry. Refugee Services estimated about 1,300 Ethiopian refugees in January 1999. The number of school children speaking Amharic, Tigrinya and Swahili in 1999 was 182, up from 155 the previous year. INS numbers for 1996 show 507 immigrants from Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Sudan and Djibouti. There are a number of possible explanations for the difference between the number of students speaking East African languages and the number of immigrants: 1) it is possible that many of these immigrants get a start in Minnesota and then move on; 2) the immigrant population from this area may be mostly single adult men who come without their families; 3) this population may be English-speaking when they arrive in Minnesota because of intermediate stops in other English speaking countries; or 4) there may be other East African languages that are missing from the school district data. A source at the International Institute indicated that Sudanese are a very mobile immigrant group moving between Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa. Unlike the Somali immigrants who seem to have chosen Minnesota (especially Minneapolis) as their home, the Sudanese have yet to concentrate in any one place.

West Africans

West African immigrants are a growing population in Minnesota, but the numbers are still fairly small. However, civil unrest in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo will probably mean that more and more people from these areas will want to leave their homelands for the U.S. Liberians are a sizeable population in Minnesota with estimates ranging as high as 2,000 in 1998. In the 1990 Census, 452 Minnesotans reported Liberian ancestry. According to the INS, 720 Liberians

have immigrated to Minnesota between 1990 and 1996. The INS identifies 1,667 immigrants during this period from all West African countries listed (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Ghana). Since Liberians speak English, it is more difficult to use school district data to estimate the total population. A total of 821 children spoke West African languages — Yoruba, Ibo and Hausa — listed in the DCFL file. DHS Refugee Services estimates 400 Liberian refugees in Minnesota, but there are undoubtedly many more Liberians in the state, many of whom may not be considered refugees.

Hmong

According to the Census, there were 16,833 Hmong in Minnesota in 1990 (with a possible undercount of 3.5 percent for all Asian and Pacific Islanders). Since that time numbers have continued to grow. In 1996, the federal government allowed an additional 6,000 refugees from Laos and Thailand to enter the U.S. Most of these refugees were Hmong. Minneapolis and St. Paul School Districts report 1,123 Hmong children (1998-1999 enrollment) who have been in the country less than 3 years. In the 1998-1999 school year, Minnesota schools have a total of 18,818 enrolled students who speak Hmong at home with 11,389 in the St. Paul schools.

The Hmong are a very young population with high fertility. In 1990, the median age for all Asians and Pacific Islanders was 20.9 years and the fertility rate for 1990-1997 was 100.7 (Minnesota Department of Health). Recently, large numbers of Hmong have emigrated from California (Fresno area) to Minnesota. One source in California estimated the numbers who have left California to be as high as 10,000 with 80 percent of them coming to Minnesota. All of these factors have led to large increases in the Hmong population in Minnesota. DHS Refugee Services estimates the population in January 1999 to be 60,000.

Using Craig's multiplier for Hmong population (2.54) and the most recent enrollment figures gives an estimate of 48,000. The Hmong population may be as large as 60,000, but that number should be considered the upper limit. This estimate includes all Hmong in Minnesota. In 1999, this estimate includes first- and second-generation children born in the United States as well as their immigrant parents and grandparents.

Other Southeast Asians

Vietnam, Laos and Thailand continue to send large numbers of immigrants to Minnesota each year — 2,353 in 1996 according to the INS. Burma and Cambodia added 109. In all, these countries accounted for more than 27 percent of all immigrants. The problem for estimating immigrant populations is that these countries may have multiple ethnicities with Hmong immigrants coming from Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and perhaps Cambodia. The language file from the Department of Children, Families and Learning shows 6,933 students speaking

Cambodian, Lao, Burmese, Thai or Vietnamese at home. Using Craig's multipliers for Vietnamese (4.4) and for Laotian (3.3), gives a Vietnamese population estimate of 11,900 and a Laotian estimate of 7,900. DHS Refugee Services estimates 8,500 Laotians, 22,000 Vietnamese and 8,500 Cambodians. These numbers, like the estimate for Hmong population, include children and grandchildren of the original immigrants.

Hispanics

The Hispanic population is an artificial construct to some extent. Hispanic was chosen to be a neutral term for people speaking Spanish and originating in any Spanish-speaking nation. Hispanic people in Minnesota are not refugees, and many Hispanics in the state come from other states, not directly from another country, e.g., Mexico or Guatemala. Children speaking Spanish at home are the most widely dispersed of all non-English speakers. School districts report Spanish-speaking students in all but 14 of Minnesota's 87 counties, with the largest concentrations in areas with meat-packing or other food processing plants — Worthington, Willmar, Moorhead, East Grand Forks, St. James, Madelia and Albert Lea.

The 1990 Census reported 53,884 Hispanics in Minnesota. In 1998, school districts reported 20,690 Hispanic students. School district personnel report the race and ethnicity based on their personal knowledge, and as a result, Hispanics are often undercounted by the schools. In 1999, 12,505 children spoke Spanish at home. The number of births to Hispanic mothers has continued to increase throughout the 1990s (13,669 births from 1990 to 1997). Fertility rates are very high, although an underestimate of the population could skew these. Craig suggests a multiplier for Spanish speakers between 10 and 13, meaning the number of Spanish speakers in Minnesota could be as high as 162,000. However, using 1990 Census data on linguistic isolation by age, the multiplier is 4.8. This multiplier yields an estimate of 60,275 Hispanics in Minnesota. Using the ethnicity reports and a multiplier based on total Hispanics by age in the 1990 Census gives an estimate of over 75,311. The total Hispanic population may be as high as 125,000 but could be much lower. With the rising numbers of births and the increases in the number of children speaking Spanish at home, it appears that this population may, like the Somali population, be changing from one with large numbers of single adult workers to one with families predominant.

Russians and Other East Europeans

Russian immigrant populations, like the Somalis and Hispanics, seem to be changing, with increasing numbers of children and families. Immigrants from other former Soviet republics have been a significant proportion of all new Minnesotans in the 1990s. Large numbers of Russians began to leave their country after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989. Since 1990, 4,823 people have come to Minnesota from the former Soviet Union, with the largest numbers

coming from Russia. Most Russian refugees sought asylum on the basis of religious persecution. These refugees are, for the most part, Jewish or Pentecostal Russians. DHS Refugee Services estimates 6,000 former Soviet citizens in Minnesota. School districts reported 1,311 students who speak Russian at home in 1998-1999, up from 1,222 in 1997-1998. Some sources have indicated that the Jewish Russian refugees have much smaller families and may be older than their Pentecostal counterparts. Early Russian immigration to Minnesota was predominantly Jewish, but the increased numbers of children in the schools indicates that more Pentecostals refugees have come in recent years. The numbers of Russian immigrants are expected to increase at a much slower rate in coming years. Craig gives a multiplier for Russians in the same range as for the Spanish speaking population — 10 to 13. However, if it is correct to assume that this population is changing and the numbers of children are increasing, those multipliers are probably too high.

Other eastern Europeans who have come to Minnesota in recent years include refugees from Bosnia and other Yugoslavian provinces. INS reports a total of 415 former Yugoslavians coming to Minnesota in the 1990s, 428 Romanians, 342 Poles and 72 Latvians. DHS' Refugee Services estimated 1,600 Bosnians in 1999, but the term may be an umbrella for all former Yugoslavians in Minnesota. There are 718 students who speak an eastern European language at home. But it is impossible to determine how many of these are new immigrants or first generation children whose parents still speak their native language.

Tibetans

Tibetans are a small population living primarily in Minneapolis. There are between 180 and 200 Tibetan students in the Minneapolis schools, and the estimate for the entire population is 500. It is difficult to know more about this population since the language has not been coded by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. DHS' Refugee Services does not include them in their list of refugees. Most Tibetans came to Minnesota in 1992 and 1993 after the U.S. granted 1,000 special visas to Tibetan refugees (*City Pages*, February 24, 1999, pp. 8 and 10).

Summary

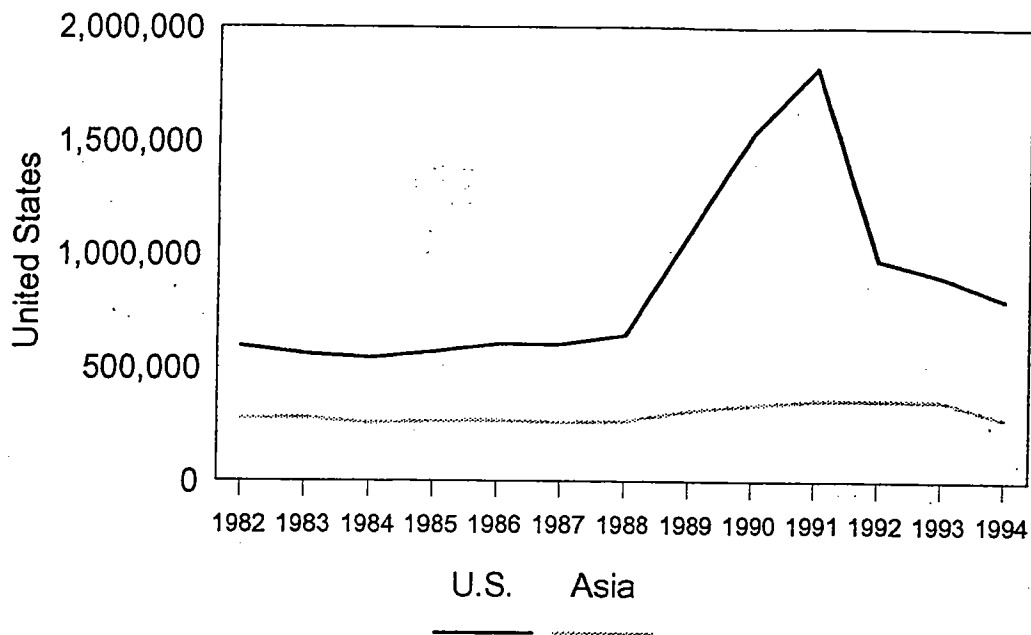
Ascertaining the number of immigrants in Minnesota is a "best guesstimate" process. The numbers given here are based on conversations with a wide range of people familiar with these ethnic groups as well as published sources of data. There are many other smaller immigrant groups in Minnesota. The focus here has been on those ethnic groups with larger populations that have arrived in recent years. Only with the 2000 Census can a more precise enumeration of these populations be determined. Until then, some of our best information comes from schools and data on language spoken at home. However, that only describes children of school age — the unknown factor is what proportion of

these populations are school-aged children. As the groups change over time, multipliers based on 1990 Census information become less and less useful. The bottom line is: 1) these numbers are estimates, 2) they have a wide confidence interval, and 3) they should be used with extreme caution.

Immigrants to Minnesota by Region and Selected Country of Birth

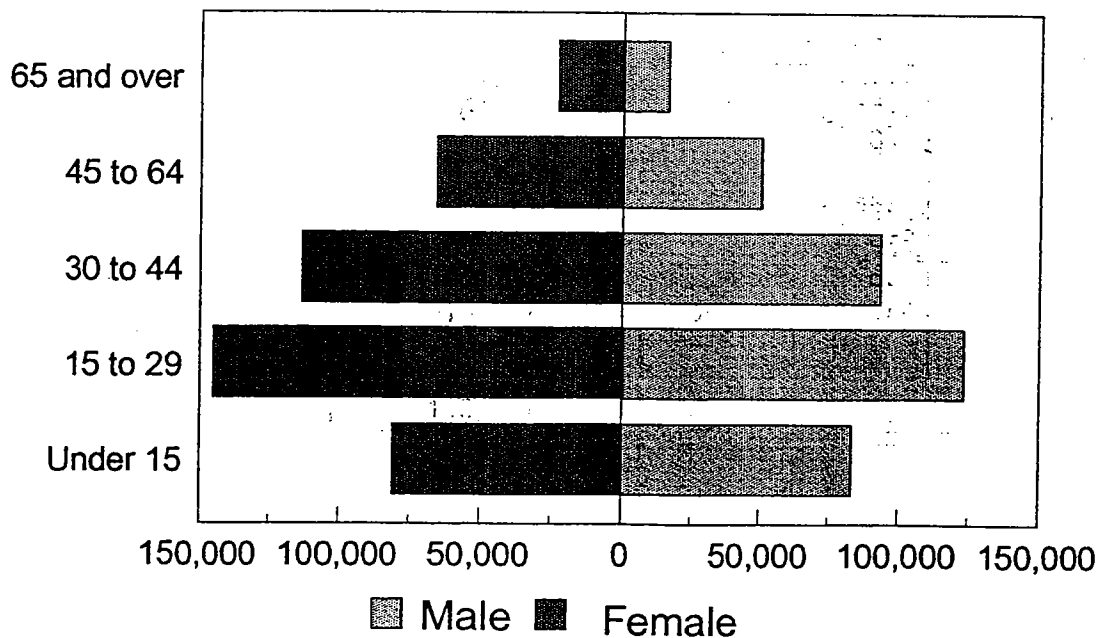
	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
All countries	8233	8977	8111	7098	7138	6851	7461	6627	5704	4665	5621	5189	4995	5243	6103	9192
Africa	2306	1735	1656	763	590	452	535	518	?	?	?	?	284	309	291	
Asia	3112	4163	3795	3761	4162	4141	3974	4119	3127	2717	3519	3159	2472	3519	4364	7180
Europe	1503	1683	1497	1446	1671	1171	1338	796	169	273	206	243	278	298	262	404
North America	969	1048	816	671	652	702	1193	784	544	420	399	335	433	366	337	228
Caribbean	118	135	114	82	56	76	78	102	83	81	58	40	45	33	25	24
Central America	157	142	108	114	98	117	152	115	87	15	50	37	76	57	52	10
Other North America	694	771	593	475	498	508	963	566	344	324	291	258	312	276	280	194
Oceania	26	46	32	36	59	50	41	24	209	202	203	184	39	31	37	186
South America	269	302	315	421	344	335	380	386	284	183	237	210	262	228	253	176
Unknown	48								1127	820	866	926				808
Afghanistan	8233	8977	8111	7098	7438	6851	7461	6627								
Argentina	5	6	7	8	25	28	22	16								
Australia	6	12	10	12	6	14	13	16								
Austria	20	35	14	20	40	34	24	17								
Bangladesh	6	7	13	5	6	8	8	7								
Belarus	34	29	7	21	7	10	6	13								
Belgium	99	120	99	118	210	29	--	--								
Bosnia-Herzegovina	5	43	3	9	9	18	9	15								
Brazil	122	92	58	29	2	--	--	--								
Burma	27	29	21	34	27	65	26	31								
Cambodia (aka Kampuchea)	5	17	8	8	9	1	1	12								
Cameroon	113	92	73	71	53	89	102	135								
Canada	40	36	19	9	8	9	20	13								
China, Mainland	178	275	245	268	306	313	183	209								
Colombia	265	344	212	448	911	282	188	135								
Croatia	75	75	75	96	89	67	74	70								
Costa Rica	6	16	6	13	2	--	--	--								
Cuba	13	5	21	8	9	10	6	12								
Czechoslovakia (former, total)	31	20	13	11	1	5	2	10								
Dominican Republic	12	15	15	4	5	4	3	13								
	6	10	11	14	5	10	14	8								

Total International Immigrants to U.S., 1983 -- 1994



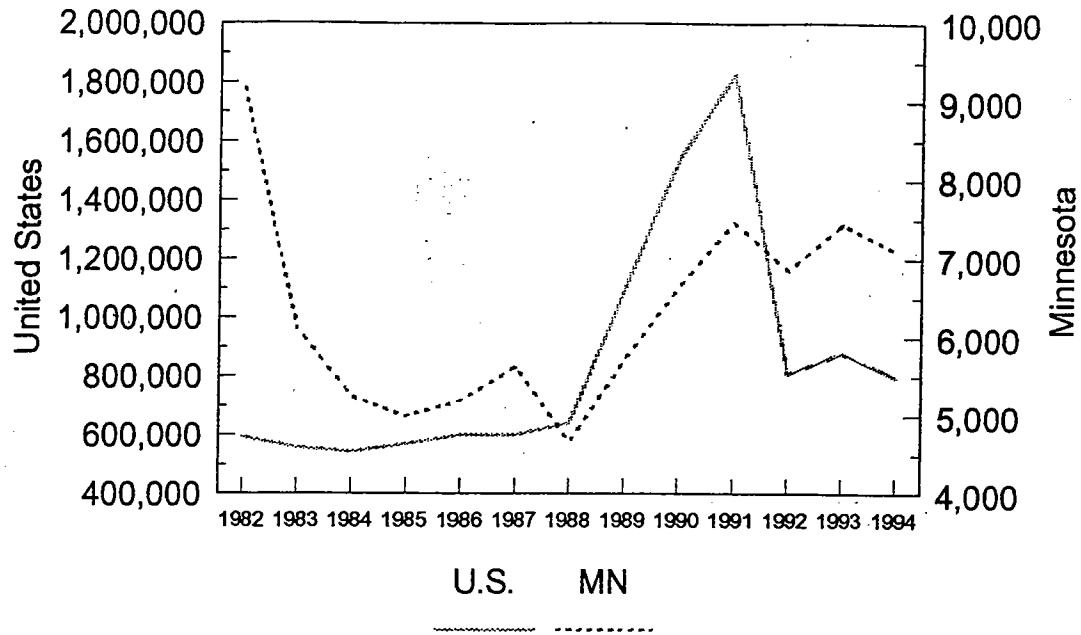
Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service

Age Distribution of International Immigrants U.S. 1994



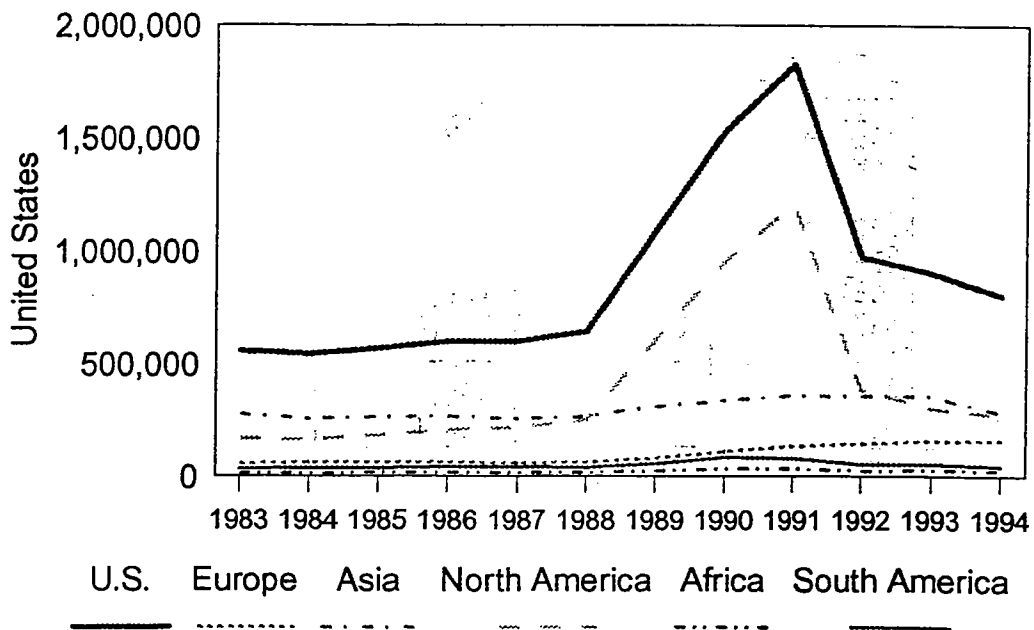
Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice

Total International Immigrants U.S. and Minnesota



Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service

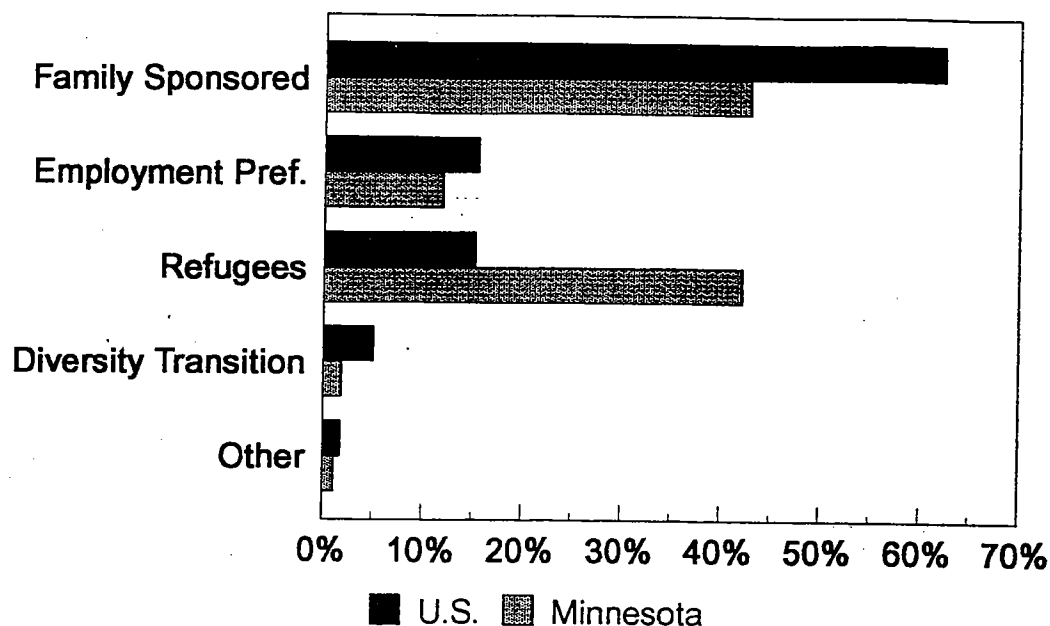
Total International Immigrants to U.S., 1983 -- 1994



Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service

Preference Categories of Immigrants

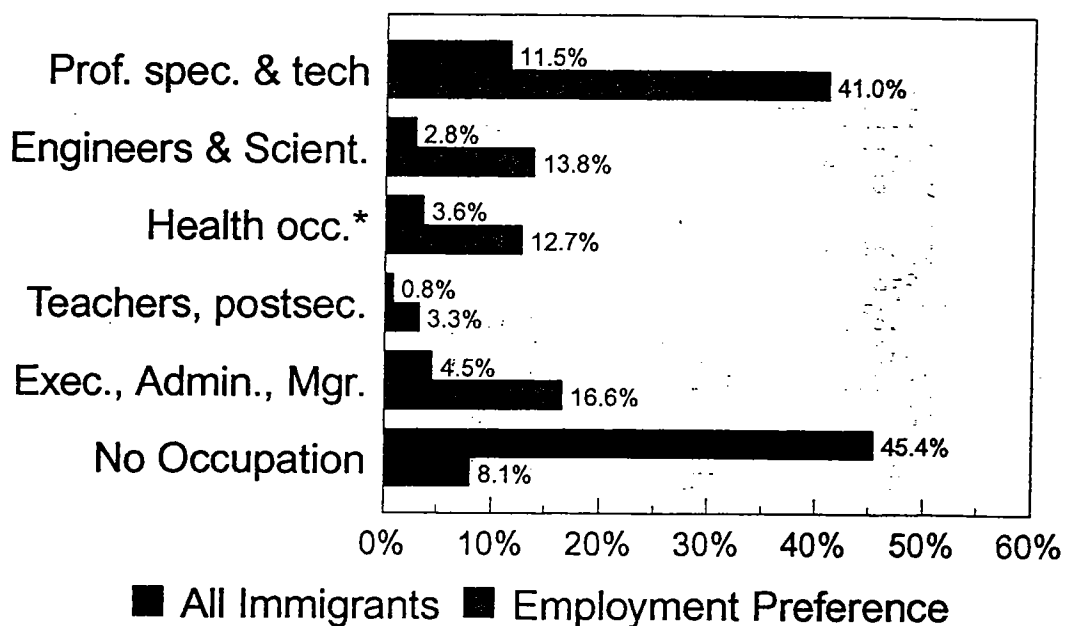
U.S. and Minnesota 1994



Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service

Occupations of Immigrants

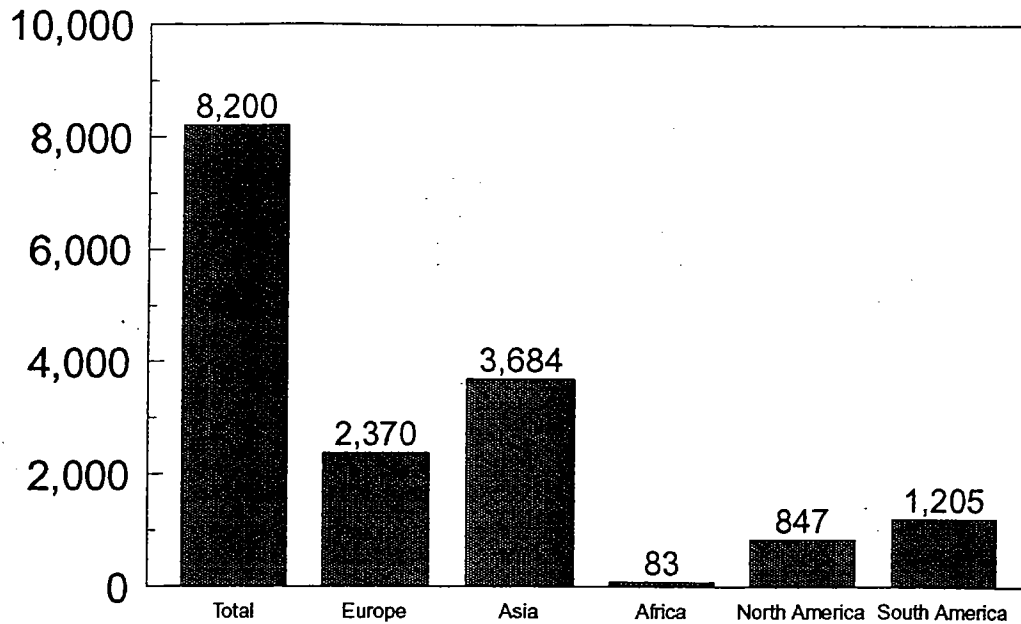
U.S. 1994



* includes doctors

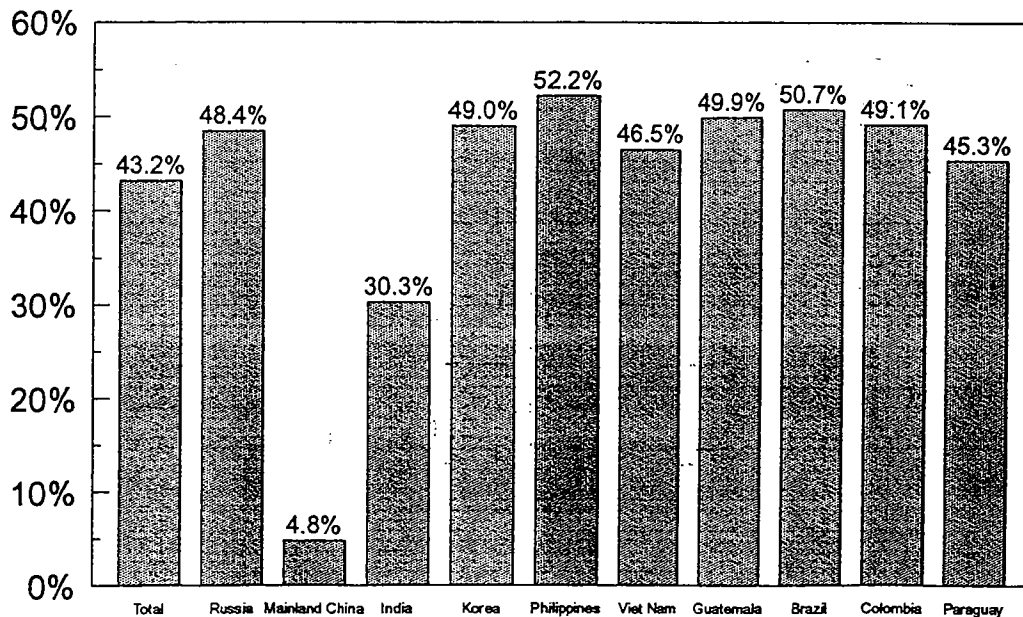
Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service

Immigrant-Orphans by Continent of Origin 1994



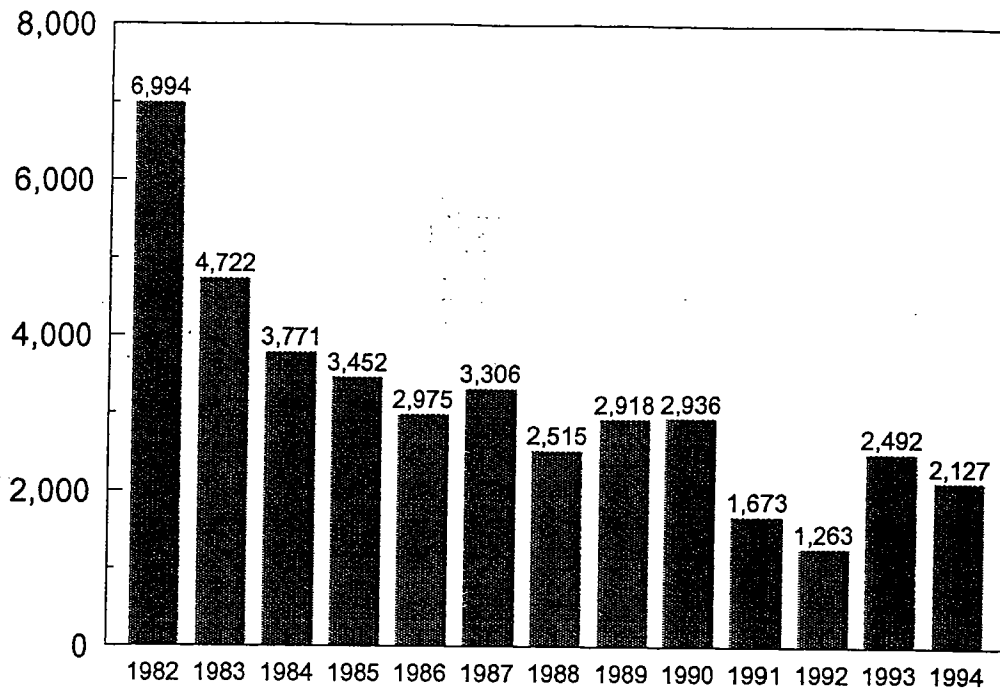
Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice

Proportion of Males among Immigrant-Orphans 1994



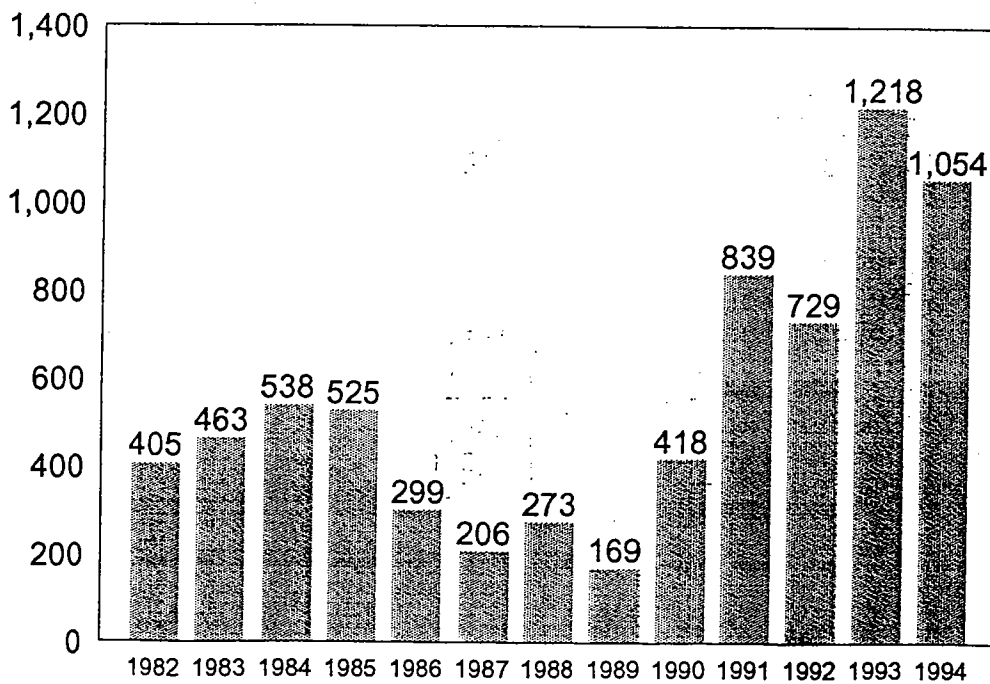
Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice

Asian Immigrants to Minnesota



Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice

European Immigrants to Minnesota



Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice

Refugee Arrivals to Minnesota
By Year of Arrival, 1979 through 1997

Country of Origin	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	TOTAL
Vietnam	1730	1955	1040	743	573	569	394	461	253	403	623	930	908	1235	776	792	712	195	74	14366
Laos (Hmong)	1088	2841	620	317	42	273	254	788	1481	1765	1489	702	815	960	1093	1003	532	426	28	16517
Laos (Other)	702	1305	750	173	172	248	87	463	252	241	173	142	183	19	16	1	4	15	7	4953
Cambodia	297	356	886	550	690	554	816	216	80	191	99	18	17	111	43	3	1	1	0	4929
Ethiopia				17	64	68	63	68	76	29	62	65	98	50	103	23	48	12	20	866
Poland				17	104	63	47	25	7	10	12	11	1	1	1		1			300
Romania				5	45	45	29	22	9	15	12	6	16	11	2	3	1			221
Iran					3	33	23	15	23	10	15	1	4	11	2		2	5	1	137
Afghanistan				9	19	30	29	27	17	22	11	6	16	1	5					192
Croatia																	1			1
Czechoslovakia				3	21	2	6	4		1										37
Bulgaria					5		3		1											9
Hungary					20	2	8	1	4	15	11					1				62
USSR				12	8	4	11		24	69	721	494	605	633	577	636	557	631	505	5487
Albania						1	1								59	102	205	211	384	961
Bosnia																				2
Mozambique						1			6											1
Pakistan						1														7
Namibia						1														1
Botswana						3	3													3
So. Africa						2	2													4
Sudan						2	2								6	21	143	63	16	251
Angola																				2
Ivory Coast																				3
Burundi																	3	1	4	5
Rwanda																			4	4
Togo																	1			1
Zimbabwe							1				5									6
Zaire																	7		3	34
Somalia																12	281	538	230	1249
Cuba																73	35			65
Haiti										9						19	54			55
Iraq										1						19	15	4	3	68
Liberia													1			7	13			97
Burma																47	10		1	19
China																4	2			6
Unknown							3													4
TOTALS	3817	6457	3296	1846	1766	1895	1784	2090	2233	2782	3234	2375	2664	3056	2907	2823	2566	2102	1378	51071

STATED DESIGNATION
SOURCE: MN DEPT OF HEALTH, REFUGEE HEALTH UNIT

Immigrants to Minnesota by Region and Selected Country of Birth

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
All countries	8977	8111	7098	7438	6851	7461	6627
Africa	1735	1656	763	590	452	535	518
Asia	4163	3795	3761	4162	4141	3974	4119
Europe	1683	1497	1446	1671	1171	1338	796
North Ameri	1048	816	671	652	702	1193	784
Carribean	135	114	82	56	76	78	102
Central Ame	142	108	114	98	117	152	115
Other North	771	593	475	498	508	963	566
Oceania	46	32	36	59	50	41	24
South Ameri	302	315	421	304	335	380	386

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Africa	1735	1656	763	590	452	535	518
Cameroon	36	19	9	8	9	20	13
Egypt	95	92	39	35	23	45	48
Eritrea	42	66	25	4	--	--	--
Ethiopia	316	267	180	226	146	163	126
Ghana	58	56	21	16	24	13	22
Kenya	88	83	40	37	22	29	21
Liberia	195	156	123	55	48	65	78
Morocco	22	12	11	14	13	18	11
Nigeria	149	137	44	57	67	107	99
Sierra Leone	23	7	9	12	7	8	11
Somalia	439	528	170	31	6	7	3
South Africa	40	40	16	19	28	10	13
Sudan	148	112	16	16	21	9	10
Tanzania	9	17	18	12	6	11	8
Uganda	8	13	3	10	6	7	16
Zaire	16	15	11	3	1	2	5
Other African	51	36	28	35	25	21	34

Asia	4163	3795	3761	4162	4141	3974	4119
Afghanistan	6	7	8	25	28	22	16
Bangladesh	29	7	21	7	10	6	13
Burma	17	8	8	9	1	1	12
Cambodia (a	92	73	71	53	69	102	135
China, Mainla	344	212	448	911	282	188	135
Hong Kong	46	40	64	74	63	50	59
India	376	266	183	236	257	226	171
Indonesia	14	9	9	5	8	13	3
Iran	90	80	76	82	63	109	132
Iraq	21	25	18	13	1	6	1
Israel	17	15	15	18	27	27	25
Japan	50	50	60	53	41	43	42
Jordan	38	27	28	31	38	36	16
Korea	184	175	243	237	230	260	351

Immigrants to Minnesota by Region and Selected Country of Birth

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
All countries	8977	8111	7098	7438	6851	7461	6627
Kuwait	21	5	15	12	14	8	9
Laos	833	856	815	747	955	1235	1298
Lebanon	20	32	23	21	24	34	23
Malaysia	19	19	18	10	26	33	18
Pakistan	53	53	31	50	41	41	41
Philippines	195	169	157	201	218	217	235
Saudi Arabia	20	9	9	6	4	3	--
Sri Lanka	19	18	22	20	37	19	12
Syria	12	23	11	13	6	11	8
Taiwan	74	56	59	90	94	61	50
Thailand	700	670	514	387	381	474	522
Turkey	33	17	15	19	11	11	13
Vietnam	820	853	806	812	1189	732	758
Other Asian	20	21	14	20	23	6	21
Europe	1683	1497	1446	1671	1171	1338	796
Austria	7	13	5	6	8	8	7
Belgium	43	3	9	9	18	9	15
Czechoslava	15	15	4	5	4	3	13
Finland	5	12	8	10	10	6	6
France	41	35	41	44	33	27	25
Germany	77	63	95	76	138	74	59
Greece	5	11	13	14	8	10	13
Hungary	18	5	2	1	12	11	12
Ireland	10	29	89	64	39	17	41
Italy	13	14	16	21	15	10	8
Latvia	18	11	15	16	12	--	--
Netherlands	20	15	17	18	17	16	26
Norway	11	19	13	19	10	16	18
Poland	29	27	49	77	57	67	36
Romania	57	62	34	34	43	166	32
Soviet Union	888	800	762	942	436	713	282
Belarus	120	99	118	210	29	--	--
Moldova	36	29	37	30	31	--	--
Russia	342	278	277	243	141	--	--
Ukraine	244	226	191	252	135	--	--
Spain	14	8	10	18	16	10	13
Sweden	20	24	22	18	25	30	22
Switzerland	15	5	11	16	19	6	11
United Kingd	146	166	167	199	181	106	124
Yugoslavia (f	200	107	29	17	38	11	13
Bosnia-Her	92	58	29	2	--	--	--
Croatia	16	6	13	2	--	--	--
Yugoslavia	92	43	11	13	38	11	--
Other Europe	31	53	35	47	32	22	20

Immigrants to Minnesota by Region and Selected Country of Birth

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
All countries	8977	8111	7098	7438	6851	7461	6627
North Ameri	1048	816	671	652	702	1193	784
Canada	275	245	268	306	313	183	209
Mexico	496	348	207	192	195	780	357
Caribbean	135	114	82	56	76	78	102
Cuba	20	13	11	1	5	2	10
Dominican R	10	11	14	5	10	14	8
Haiti	48	29	16	5	9	15	23
Jamaica	27	27	20	27	17	23	30
Trinidad & To	21	22	13	9	17	15	12
Other Carribe	9	12	8	9	18	9	19
Central Ame	142	108	114	98	117	152	115
Costa Rica	5	21	8	9	10	6	12
El Salvador	28	24	29	18	16	40	20
Guatemala	54	28	33	23	25	36	22
Honduras	22	16	17	28	34	40	39
Nicaragua	22	9	10	8	14	7	12
Other Central	11	10	17	12	18	23	10
Other North	771	593	475	498	508	963	566
Oceania	46	32	36	59	50	41	24
Australia	35	14	29	40	34	24	17
Other Ocean	11	18	7	19	16	17	7
South Ameri	302	315	421	304	335	380	386
Argentina	12	10	12	6	14	13	16
Brazil	29	21	34	27	65	26	31
Colombia	75	75	96	89	67	74	70
Ecuador	26	18	25	14	16	12	13
Guyana	88	96	141	68	105	131	110
Paraguay	21	29	37	41	6	18	67
Peru	21	39	39	25	35	87	36
Venezuela	14	6	10	13	3	4	22
Other South	16	21	27	21	24	15	21

Source: U.S. IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE
 PREPARED BY: MN. PLANNING, OFFICE OF STATE DEMOGRAPHER

Refugee Arrivals to Minnesota
By Year of Arrival, 1979 through 1997

Country of Origin	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	TOTAL
Vietnam	1730	1955	1040	743	573	569	394	461	253	403	623	930	908	1235	776	792	712	195	74	14366
Laos (Hmong)	1088	2841	620	317	42	273	254	788	1481	1765	1489	702	815	960	1093	1003	532	426	28	16517
Laos (Other)	702	1305	750	173	172	248	87	463	252	241	173	142	183	19	16	1	4	15	7	4953
Cambodia	297	356	886	550	690	554	816	216	80	191	99	18	17	111	43	3	1	1	0	4929
Ethiopia				17	64	68	63	68	76	29	62	65	98	50	103	23	48	12	20	866
Poland				17	104	63	47	25	7	10	12	11	1	1	1		1			300
Romania				5	45	45	29	22	9	15	12	6	16	11	2	3	1			221
Iran				3	3	33	23	15	23	10	15	1	4	11	2		2	5	1	137
Afghanistan				9	19	30	29	27	17	22	11	6	16	1	5					192
Croatia																	1			1
Czechoslovakia				3	21	2	6	4		1										37
Bulgaria				5	5		3		1											9
Hungary				20	20	2	8	1	4	15	11					1				62
USSR				12	8	4	11		24	69	721	494	605	633	577	636	557	631	505	5487
Albania						1	1								59	102	205	211	384	2
Bosnia																				961
Mozambique						1			6											1
Pakistan						1														7
Namibia						1														1
Botswana																				3
So. Africa							3			1	1									4
Sudan							2								6	21	143	63	16	251
Angola							2													2
Ivory Coast							2										3	1	4	3
Burundi																			4	5
Rwanda																			4	4
Togo																	1			1
Zimbabwe							1				5									6
Zaire															12	12	7		3	34
Somalia															127	73	281	538	230	1249
Cuba										9					2	19	35			65
Haiti																			1	55
Iraq										1				19	7	19	15	4	3	68
Liberia													1	15	70	47	13		97	243
Burma															6	10	2		1	19
China																4	2			6
Unknown							3							1						4
TOTALS	3817	6457	3296	1846	1766	1895	1784	2090	2233	2782	3234	2375	2664	3056	2907	2823	2566	2102	1378	51071

STATED DESIGNATION
SOURCE: INS , MN.DEPT OF HEALTH, REFUGEE HEALTH UNIT

PopBites

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Estimates of immigrant populations in Minnesota

Ascertaining the number of immigrants in Minnesota is a "best guesstimate" process, but estimates of new residents are needed by both service providers and policy makers. Until data from the 2000 Census is released, an accurate count of subpopulations in Minnesota is impossible. Most immigrants are concentrated in

the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Olmsted county (Rochester). However, many Hispanics work at food processing plants and live in greater Minnesota. Because of the difficulty of estimating these populations, the numbers provided here are statewide estimates only.

Several agencies collect data that can be used to derive estimates, including the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Refugee Services at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Internal Revenue Service and the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. Because this data is often released one to two years after it is collected, knowledgeable individuals who deal with international immigrants were contacted for their insights on the numbers of new Minnesotans.

International newcomers are highly mobile and statistically elusive. Subpopulations that stand out physically from the majority of Minnesotans are often overestimated, and the high estimate of a particular immigrant group can range as much as 2.5 times the low estimate.

This report estimates the population of those ethnic groups that have arrived in recent years: Somalis, other East Africans, West Africans, Hmong, other southeast Asians, Hispanics, Russians, Yugoslavians, and Tibetans. In addition, a range is given for these estimates, and the actual number of immigrants probably falls within this range. Finally, these numbers are estimates, they have wide confidence intervals, and they should be used with extreme caution.

Published by the State Demographic Center at Minnesota Planning, this issue of *PopBites* summarizes findings from Barbara Ronningen's working paper that describes estimates of immigrant populations in Minnesota. Upon request, *PopBites* will be made available in alternate format, such as Braille, large print or audio tape. For TTY, contact Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 and ask for Minnesota Planning. To receive a copy of *PopBites* or for other population information, contact the Minnesota State Demographic Center Helpline at 651-296-2557 or via e-mail at helpline@mnplan.state.mn.us.



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Ethnic Group	Estimate	Range
Somalis	6,000	+ or - 1,500
Other East Africans	2,000	+ or - 500
West Africans	2,500	+ or - 500
Hmong	60,000	+ or - 3,000
Other Southeast Asians	20,000	+ or - 3,000
Hispanics	125,000	+ or - 15,000
Russians	6,000	+ or - 1,000
Yugoslavians	1,600	+ or - 300
Tibetans	500	+ or - 100